

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-04 COME-00

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INFORM AMBASSADOR BREWSTER ARA-LA/EP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR EC

SUBJ: TUNA FISHING

1. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE ECUADOREAN "SEASON" IS OPENING WITH ABOUT EIGHT U.S. FLAG VESSELS FISHING THESE WATERS. ABOUT FIFTEEN FOREIGN FLAGS ARE FISHING ABOUT 150 MILES OFF SALINAS. ALL VESSELS ARE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED. PANAMANIAN, SPANISH AND CANADIAN ARE OTHER FLAGS REPRESENTED.

2. RAMON GONZALEZ OF DEL MONTE, MANTA, SAID TODAY "NO U.S. FLAGS IN THIS AREA," YET UNBEKNOWNST TO ME (WHILE WE WERE TALKING BY PHONE) ONE OF DEL MONTE'S CAPTAINS WAS IN MY OUTER OFFICE. HE IS BILL MARTIN SKIPPERING THE "KING OSCAR" WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN SALINAS AWAITING ISSUANCE OF FISHING LICENSE. CAPTAIN MARTIN PROVIDED INFO IN PARA 1 ABOVE. HE SAID SEASON PROMISES TO BE GOOD. HE IS FISHING FOR DEL MONTE U.S., NOT DE MONTE ECUADOR.

3. LUIS CHACON OF EPNA WITH WHOM I SPOKE THIS MORNING SAID THERE WERE EIGHT LICENSED U.S. FLAG TUNA BOATS OFF ECUADOR'S COAST. HE ALSO SAID ITEM IN EL UNIVERSO OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TODAY'S DATE ABOUT THREE SPANISH TUNA BOATS IN MANTA TO

BE TRANSFERRED TO ECUADOREAN REGISTRY ALL WRONG. SUCH IS NOT THE CASE SINCE 1200 TON BOAT UNECONOMICAL FOR ECUADOREAN USE BECAUSE OF LARGE SIZE. ECUADOR NOT ANXIOUS USE SPANISH EQUIPMENT OR METHODS BECAUSE NOT AS GOOD AS U.S.

4. CHACON CURRENTLY DICKERING WITH MARTINAC SHIPBUILDING, TAKOMA, WASHINGTON AND CAMPBELL, SAN DIEGO, FOR 10 TUNA BOATS OF WHICH 3 OR 4 TO BE BUILT IN ECUADOR. SHIPS OF 200-400 TON SIZE BUT PRICES BEYOND FINANCING CAPABILITIES ECUADOR AND HE MENTIONED POLISH FIRM HAS MADE EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE OFFER PROVIDE SHIPS MADE IN POLAND OF U.S. DESIGN AND U.S. CATERPILLAR ENGINES. HE PREFERS DOING BUSINESS WITH U.S. BUT MAY HAVE TO TURN TO POLAND BECAUSE OF SUBSIDY GIVEN BY POLISH GOVERNMENT TO ITS SHIPYARDS FOR OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

5. BOTH CHACON AND GONZALEZ PROMISED KEEP ME INFORMED IF THERE IS NEWS ABOUT UNLICENSED U.S. TUNA BOATS IN AREA.
BISHTON

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